

JOHANNA C. HAFT.

JANUARY 30, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SULLOWAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9838.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9838) for the relief of Johanna C. Haft, having considered the same, respectfully report:

This beneficiary was married in Germany in 1871, to Federick Sonnenman, who was ordered into the army in the Franco-German war, and was in a battle and she heard he was killed. He did not return and she came to this country. In 1872 she went to work as housekeeper for John Haft, and in 1874 was married to him. He died in 1894, leaving her in destitute circumstances and with two children under sixteen years of age dependent on her, so that she is compelled to work at picking cranberries, or anything she can get to do, in order to support herself and the soldier's children. She has never heard anything from her former husband since she heard that he was killed in battle in the Franco-German war, more than twenty-five years ago, yet her claim was rejected on account of her inability to furnish absolute proof of his death.

Your committee believe that they are justified in presuming the death of her former husband, and therefore recommend the passage of the bill, after being amended as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and substitute the following:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Johanna C. Haft, as widow of John Haft, late a private in Company C, Forty-first Massachusetts Volunteers, and pay her a pension of twelve dollars per month and the usual allowance for minor children.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Johanna C. Haft."